



MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LT. GOVERNOR

EDWARD A. FLYNN
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Department of Fire Services
P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775
(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For Immediate Release: January 17, 2006
Contact: Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381

Laurent R. McDonald Appointed Director of Massachusetts Firefighting

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "It is my pleasure to announce that the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and I have selected Dudley Fire Chief Laurent R. McDonald as the next Director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy." The appointment was effective Monday, January 9, 2006.

Prior to the serving as Dudley's fire chief, Mr. McDonald served in the United States Air Force for 21 years, holding several positions of distinction in the Air Force Fire Service. His most recent position was the Firefighter Certification and Training Manager for Headquarters Air Force Fire Protection at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

Mr. McDonald holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science from the Community College of the Air Force and a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science from the University of Maryland as well as numerous IFSAC fire service certifications at the Firefighter, Driver -Operator, Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, Hazardous Materials Technician and Fire Officer levels.

In his position, Director McDonald will be responsible for the development, implementation, and delivery of a comprehensive statewide fire training and emergency response system. McDonald said, "My 24 years in the fire service has provided me with a significant depth and breadth of experience in management, leadership, training, and educational aspects of the fire service."

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy is a division of the state Department of Fire Services located in Stow, Massachusetts.

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